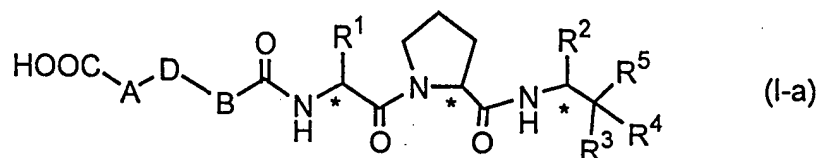


## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

### 1. (Currently Amended)

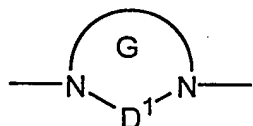
A heterocyclic compound of the formula (I-a):



wherein \* means that the carbon atom marked with \* is an asymmetric carbon atom,

A and B are the same or different and each is a lower alkylene group being optionally substituted by an oxo group,

D is a heteromonocyclic or heterobicyclic group of the following formula:



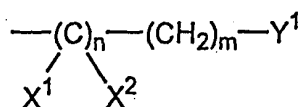
wherein D<sup>1</sup> is a methylene group or an ethylene group, and these groups may optionally be substituted by an oxo group, Ring G is a 5- to 14-membered, saturated or unsaturated, heteromonocyclic or heterobicyclic group optionally having other heteroatoms selected from a nitrogen atom, an oxygen atom and/or a sulfur atom, and said

heterocyclic heteromonocyclic or heterobicyclic group being optionally substituted by a substituent T<sup>1</sup>, in which T<sup>1</sup> is the same or different 1 to 3 groups selected from

- (i) an oxo group,
  - (ii) a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl group,
  - (iii) a substituted or unsubstituted amino group,
  - (iv) a substituted or unsubstituted carbamoyl group,
  - (v) a carboxyl group or a lower alkoxy carbonyl group,
  - (vi) a phenyl group being optionally substituted by a halogen atom, a lower alkoxy group or a lower alkyl group, and
  - (vii) a substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl carbonyl group,
- R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are the same or different and each is a lower alkyl group,

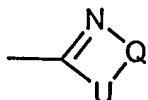
R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup> are different from each other, and each is a hydrogen atom or a hydroxy group, or both combine together to form an oxo group,

R<sup>5</sup> is a group of the formula:



wherein X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> are a halogen atom, Y<sup>1</sup> is a hydrogen atom, a halogen atom, a lower alkoxy carbonyl group, a lower alkyl aminocarbonyl group, an aralkyl aminocarbonyl group, an aralkyloxy carbonyl group, a lower alkyl carbonyl group, or an aralkyl carbonyl group, or a group of the

following formula:



wherein U is an oxygen atom or a sulfur atom, Q is a vinylene group or an orthophenylene group being optionally substituted by  $T^2$ ,  $T^2$  is 1 to 3 groups selected from a halogen-substituted or unsubstituted lower alkyl group, a lower alkoxy group, a lower alkylsulfonyl group, a lower alkylcarbonyloxy group and an amino group being optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group,

n is 0, 1 or 2, and

m is an integer of 0 to 5,

or its ester, or a salt thereof.

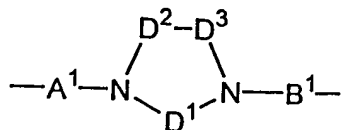
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Age Group	Percentage of Respondents
18-29	85%
30-49	80%
50-69	75%
70+	70%



1

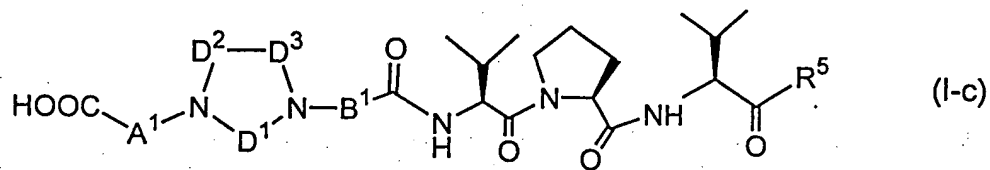
**4. (Previously Amended)** The heterocyclic compound according to claim 1, wherein the group of the formula: -A-D-B- is a group of the following formula:



wherein A<sup>1</sup> is a methylene group or a group of the formula: -CH<sub>2</sub>CO-, B<sup>1</sup> is a methylene group or a group of the formula: -COCH<sub>2</sub>-, D<sup>2</sup> and D<sup>3</sup> are the same or different and each is a vinylene group being optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group, or a methylene group being optionally substituted by an oxo group or a lower alkyl group, D<sup>1</sup> is as defined in claim 1, provided that both D<sup>2</sup> and D<sup>3</sup> should not simultaneously be a vinylene group being optionally substituted by a lower alkyl group, or its ester, or a salt thereof.

**5. (Original)**

The heterocyclic compound according to claim 4, which is a compound of the following formula (I-c):



wherein D<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>5</sup> are as defined in claim 1, and A<sup>1</sup>, B<sup>1</sup>, D<sup>2</sup> and D<sup>3</sup> are the same as defined in claim 4, or its ester, or a salt thereof.

**6. (Original)**

The heterocyclic compound according to claim 5, which is selected from the following compounds, its ester, or a salt thereof:

Compound 1: 2-(3-carboxymethyl-2-oxo-1-imidazolidinyl)acetyl-L-valyl-N-[(1S)-3,3,3-trifluoro-1-isopropyl-2-oxopropyl]-L-prolinamide;

Compound 2: 2-(3-carboxymethyl-2,4-dioxo-1-pyrimidinyl)-acetyl-L-valyl-N-[(1S)-2-(2-benzoxazolyl)-1-isopropyl-2-oxoethyl]-L-prolinamide;

Compound 3: 2-(4-carboxymethyl-2,3-dioxo-1-piperazinyl)acetyl-L-valyl-N-[(1S)-2-(2-benzoxazolyl)-1-isopropyl-2-oxoethyl]-L-prolinamide;

Compound 4: 2-(3-carboxymethyl-2,4-dioxo-1-pyrimidinyl)-acetyl-L-valyl-N-[(1S)-3-benzylamino-1-isopropyl-2,3-dioxopropyl]-L-prolinamide,

Compound 5: 2-(4-carboxymethyl-2,5-dioxo-1-piperazinyl)acetyl-L-valyl-N-[(1S)-2-(2-benzoxazolyl)-1-isopropyl-2-oxoethyl]-L-prolinamide;

Compound 6: 2-(3-carboxymethyl-2,5-dioxo-1-imidazolidinyl)-acetyl-L-valyl-N-[(1S)-3,3,3-trifluoro-1-isopropyl-2-oxopropyl]-L-prolinamide; and

Compound 7: [[4-(2-carboxyacetyl)-1-piperazinyl]malonyl]-L-valyl-N-[(1S)-2-(2-benzoxazolyl)-1-isopropyl-2-oxoethyl]-L-prolinamide.

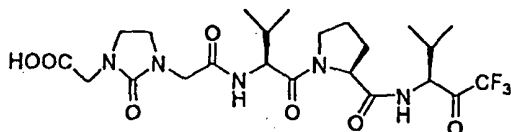
$\frac{d}{dt} \left( \frac{\partial L}{\partial \dot{x}} \right) = \frac{\partial L}{\partial x}$

## REMARKS

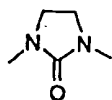
The specification has been amended to correct a typographical error. In addition, the claims have been amended to correct minor clerical errors. The correction to claim 1 is supported by claim 1, line 9. The correction to claim 3 is supported in the specification at page 9, lines 14-17.

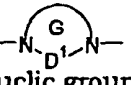
This amendment is also responsive to the Official Action dated July 9, 2003, which constitutes a requirement for an election of species.


In response to the requirement, the Applicants elect the compound (I-b-1) disclosed in Example 11 of the present description, pages 50-52 of the following formula:



This elected compound corresponds to the formula (I-a) in claim 1 wherein A and B are both methylene (-CH<sub>2</sub>-), D is a group of the formula:



[that is, in the formula:  Ring G is imidazolidine (5-membered saturated heteromonocyclic group), D' is a methylene substituted by oxo],

R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are both isopropyl group, and R<sup>5</sup> is -CF<sub>3</sub> (that is, in the formula:  X<sup>1</sup> and X<sup>2</sup> are both fluorine, Y<sup>1</sup> is fluorine, n is 1 and m is 0).

Claims 1-7 and 9-10 are readable on the elected species.



Favorable action on the merits is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Fuminori SATO et al.

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August 11, 2003